

AERATION SYSTEMS

If you utilize a home aeration system, special care is required. The motor, which provides aeration to the system, must operate continuously. If it does not, the oxygen required by the microorganisms that thrive in the aeration system will not be sufficient and they will begin to die. These “sewage bugs” help to break down the organic matter in the wastewater and biologically convert it to stable substances in the form of gases and liquids. The aeration and mixing of the wastewater ensures that it comes in contact with the microorganisms so thorough treatment can occur.

Several aeration system designs also incorporate the use of filters to provide additional treatment. These filters need to be checked and cleaned on a routine basis to work effectively. If these filters become clogged, then the wastewater has no place to travel within that system. This can cause a possible backup. It can also cause solids to clog the motor, shortening its life span. Untreated waste may eventually leave the system and enter the environment.

Aeration systems have mechanical components, which will also need to be serviced and eventually replaced. Since much of the additional care and maintenance required with these systems is beyond the expertise of the average homeowner, various companies have been certified by the original manufacturers to offer extended service contracts.

Modern aeration systems have an alarm box that is situated in a conspicuous location in your home. This alarm box will let you know if there is a problem with the system. An alarm will typically sound if a motor is not operating or if you are having a backup within the tank. Once this alarm sounds, you should contact the service provider whose name appears on the alarm box. You should also conserve water usage until a technician arrives to repair your system. You can still flush your toilets and use water sparingly during this time. Refrain from washing laundry or conducting other activities that generate a large volume of wastewater. A back up into your home or ponding of wastewater on your lawn could result.

If you have any questions regarding the maintenance of your aeration system, please contact the Board of Health or the manufacturer’s representative for assistance.